

Applicant: John David Breiten
Application No.: 10/815,179
Response to Office action dated Aug. 22, 2006
Response filed September 20, 2006

Remarks

Claims 1–18 remain pending in the application. In the Office action dated Aug. 22, 2006, the examiner required restriction between (Group I) claims 1–5, 8, 17, and 18, drawn to a doctor blade; (Group II) claims 6–7, and 14–16, drawn to a reel of doctor blade material; and (Group III) claims 9–13, drawn to a method of reducing a doctor blade inventory.

In response to the restriction requirement, applicant elects the claims of Group I (claims 1–5, 8, 17, and 18) with traverse. The basis for the traverse is that the claims as amended, are all directed to a doctor blade of the type used in a papermaking machine, or a method of reducing the inventory of doctor blades used in a papermaking machine.

Inventions I and II are not unrelated. Inventions are unrelated if it can be shown that they are not disclosed as capable of use together and they have different designs, modes of operation, and effects. As amended, the doctor blade may not be used to make a different product. Particularly to be noted is the similarity between claim 18 of Group I to a length of doctor blade material in a papermaking machine, and claim 14 of Group II to a reel of doctor blade material of the type used in a papermaking machine.

Inventions I and III are related as product and process of use. The inventions can be shown to be distinct if either or both of the following can be shown: (1) the process for using the product as claimed can be practiced with another materially different product or (2) the product as claimed can be used in a materially different process of using that product. As amended, the doctor blade can not be used in another and materially different process, for example, slicing food.

Inventions II and III are not unrelated. Inventions are unrelated if it can be shown that they are not disclosed as capable of use together and they have different designs, modes of operation, and effects. As amended, the doctor blade may not used to make a different product, for example shaving razor blades.

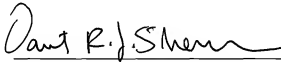
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Claim 7 has been amended to remove a typographical error.

Applicant believes that no new matter has been added by this amendment.

Applicant submits that the claims, as amended, are in condition for allowance. Favorable action thereon is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David R. J. Stiennon", written over a horizontal line.

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September 20, 2006 (5:24pm)